## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 2, 18 and 19, and amend claims 1, 3-5, 17, 20, 21, 23, 24 and 26-32 as follows:

- 1. (Currently Amended) A data storage medium comprising:
  - a first layer comprising a substrate;
  - a second layer including a polymer, the second layer exhibiting surface variations; and
- a third layer including a magnetic recording material and substantially conforming to the surface variations of the second layer.
- 2. (Canceled)
- 3. (Currently Amended) The data storage medium as described in claim 1, wherein the first layer is a disk-shaped substrate.
- 4. (Currently Amended) The data storage medium as described in claim 1, wherein the first layer provides rigidity and mechanical stability to the <u>medium</u> article.
- 5. (Currently Amended) The data storage medium as described in claim 1, wherein the first layer comprises is comprised of one of the following: glass, aluminum, aluminum-magnesium alloy, ceramic and plastic.
- 6. (Original) The data storage medium as described in claim 1, wherein the polymer includes a photopolymerized material.
- 7. (Original) The data storage media as described in claim 6, wherein the polymer comprises at least 30% by weight of radiation polymerized components selected from epoxy-terminated silanes.



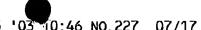


- 8. (Original) The data storage medium as described in claim 1, wherein the surface variations are machine-readable data patterns.
- 9. (Original) The data storage medium as described in claim 8, wherein the data patterns include data bumps.
- 10. (Original) The data storage medium as described in claim 9, wherein at least some of the data bumps comprise encoded data.
- 11. (Original) The data storage medium as described in claim 1, wherein the surface variations are protrusions.
- 12. (Original) The data storage medium as described in claim 11, wherein the surface variations include at least one of the following: bumps, rails, lands and ridges
- 13. (Original) The data storage medium as described in claim I, wherein the surface variations are depressions.
- 14. (Original) The data storage medium as described in claim 13, wherein the surface variations include at least one of the following: pits, grooves, and channels.
- 15. (Original) The data storage medium as described in claim 1, wherein the surface variations contain servo patterns.
- 16. (Original) The data storage medium as described in claim 1, wherein the surface variations contain tracking patterns.
- 17. (Currently Amended) The data storage medium as described in claim 1, wherein the surface variations project from the <u>medium article</u> a height less than 50 nanometers.



- (Canceled) 18.
- (Canceled) 19.
- (Currently Amended) The data storage medium as described in claim 1, wherein the third 20. layer includes comprises a thin film stack including an underlay, the magnetic recording material. and a hard coat.
- (Currently Amended) The data storage medium as described in claim 21, wherein the 21. underlay includes a chrome alloy and the magnetic recording material includes a cobalt alloy, third layer includes a hard coat.
- (Original) The data storage medium as described in claim 21, wherein the hard coat 22. includes at least one of the following: carbon, nitrogenated-carbon, and hydrogenated-carbon.
- 23. (Currently Amended) The data storage medium as described in claim 1, wherein the third layer further includes a buffer.
- 24. (Currently Amended) The data storage medium as described in claim 1, further comprising a fourth layer substantially conforming to the surface variations of the second layer.
- 25. (Original) The data storage medium as in claim 24, wherein the fourth layer includes a lubricating material.
- 26. (Currently Amended) The data storage medium as in claim 125, wherein at least one a medium surface is flyable.
- 27. (Currently Amended) A data storage medium comprising:
  - a substantially rigid substrate; -
  - a polymer containing surface variations;





- a thin film stack substantially conforming to the surface variations, comprising a plurality of sub-layers, and including a magnetic recording material; and
  - a lubrication layer substantially conforming to the surface variations, wherein the surface variations are arranged in a machine-readable pattern.
- 28. (Currently Amended) A data storage medium comprising:
  - a flexible contact media substrate;
  - a polymer containing surface variations;
- a thin film stack substantially conforming to the surface variations and comprising a plurality of sub-layers, and including a magnetic recording material; and
  - a lubrication layer substantially conforming to the surface variations, wherein the surface variations are arranged in a machine-readable pattern.
- 29. (Currently Amended) A data storage medium comprising: a substantially transparent plastic substrate including optically detectable features; a reflective layer to facilitate optical detection of the optically detectable features via reflection of an optical signal;
  - a polymer containing surface variations;
- a thin film stack comprising a plurality of sub-layers, including a magnetic recording material, and substantially conforming to the surface variations; and
  - a lubrication layer substantially conforming to the surface variations, wherein the surface variations are arranged in a machine-readable pattern.
- 30. (Currently Amended) A data storage medium comprising:
  - a first data storage layer:
- a second data storage layer, the second data storage layer including a polymer containing surface variations:
- a thin film stack comprising a plurality of sub-layers, including a magnetic recording material, and substantially conforming to the surface variations; and
  - a lubrication layer substantially conforming to the surface variations,



wherein the surface variations are arranged in a machine-readable pattern.

- 31. (Currently Amended) A removable hard disk unit comprising:
  - a housing; and
  - a data storage unit within the housing comprising:
    - a first layer comprising a substrate;
  - a second layer including a polymer, the second layer exhibiting surface variations; and
  - a third layer <u>including a magnetic recording material and</u> substantially conforming to the surface variations of the second layer.
- 32. (Currently Amended) A system comprising:
  - a housing;
  - a flying head transducer within the housing; and
  - a data storage unit within the housing comprising:
    - a first layer comprising a substrate;
  - a second layer including a polymer, the second layer exhibiting surface variations; and
  - a third layer <u>including a magnetic recording material and</u> substantially conforming to the surface variations of the second layer.
- (Withdrawn) A method comprising:

providing a substrate;

applying a polymer film on the substrate;

creating one or more surface variations on the film;

applying an additional layer over the film such that the additional layer substantially conforms to the surface variations.



34. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 33, further comprising applying a plurality of additional layers over the film such that the plurality of additional layers substantially conform to the surface variations.

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- 35. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 33, wherein applying a film on the substrate comprises spin coating the substrate.
- 36. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 33, wherein applying a film on the substrate comprises roll coating the substrate.
- 37. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 33, wherein creating one or more surface variations comprises stamping the film with a stamper.
- 38. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 33, wherein applying a film on the substrate and creating the one or more surface variations comprises an injection molding process.
- 39. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 33, wherein applying a film on the substrate and creating the one or more surface variations comprises a rolling bead process.
- 40. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 33, wherein the polymer film comprises less than 1% solvent.
- 41. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 33, wherein the polymer film comprises at least 30% ambifunctional silanes.
- 42. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 33, wherein the polymer film comprises at least 15% heterocyclic acryloyloxy materials.
- 43. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 33 wherein the polymer film comprises 30% to 70% hydantoin hexacrylate.